



Program Directors' Newsletter

Fall 2017

A Guide to Board Certification in Pediatrics: Booklet of Information and Updated General Pediatrics Program Directors Guide to the ABP

Do you have questions about basic training requirements, which nonstandard training pathway may be available for your trainees, what to do when a trainee has an extended absence from training, what the ABP requires when a trainee is not performing well? [A Guide to Board Certification: Booklet of Information](#) provides detailed information regarding the requirements for training and what your trainees need to know about certification. [The General Pediatric Program Directors Guide](#) to the ABP is a comprehensive guide for program directors that explains the tracking system and helps directors navigate interactions with the ABP. You and your program coordinator may find the FAQ section helpful; it has information about tracking, the ITE and helping residents apply for certification.

Osteopathic Pediatrics Accreditation and ACGME-I Accreditation

The ABP will accept residents for certification only if their training has been accredited by ACGME for the entire duration of required pediatric training. This means that residents who began training in programs only accredited by the American Osteopathic Association but whose program became accredited do not meet this criterion. Likewise, trainees who have completed training in programs accredited by ACGME-I do not meet the requirement for ABP certification. This [policy](#) has important implications for subspecialty programs who accept trainees who have not completed all general pediatrics training in ACGME accredited general pediatrics programs.

Updated Content Outlines for General Pediatrics and Pediatric Subspecialties

In 2016 the ABP conducted a practice analysis study to identify the knowledge required for safe and effective practice as a general pediatrician. The results of that study were used to update the [General Pediatrics Content Outline](#), which specifies the content to be covered by the ABP's certification exams. The new outline went into effect on September 1, 2017, which means that all of the ABP's general pediatrics exams administered after September 1, 2017, including the in-training exam taken by pediatric residents, the initial certification exam, and the maintenance of certification exam, will adhere to the new content specifications. More information about the practice analysis study and the new content outline can be found [here](#). In addition, the ABP intends to follow a similar content outline revision process for all pediatric subspecialties. Several subspecialties have already begun the revision process, and the ABP's goal is to have updated content outlines for all pediatric subspecialties by the end of 2020.

Reminder to Subspecialty Program Directors:

Please return your program's subspecialty tracking roster before the 2018 Subspecialty In-Training Examination registration start date on November 1, 2017.

Important Resources for Program Directors:

- Access the ABP's [2016-2017 Workforce Data](#).
- View the ABP's most recent [Annual Report](#).
- See the 2017 and 2018 examination dates and open application dates for [General Pediatrics](#) and [Subspecialties](#).
- Coming Soon: Subspecialty Program Directors Guide



Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD)

ACHD certification is offered by the American Board of Internal Medicine to those who meet the requirements for practice or training who are also currently certified in pediatric cardiology by the ABP. However, once certified in ACHD, ABIM does not require underlying certification in pediatric cardiology to be maintained to maintain certification. However, if a diplomate wishes to continue to be certified by the ABP and also be listed as a certified pediatrician on the ABP website, he or she must continue to maintain either a general pediatrics certificate or pediatric cardiology certificate.

Updated Privacy Standards and Their Impact on Educational Research

The recent update to the ABP privacy policy, which now permits the sharing of individual-level, de-identified data (including test scores) brings with it the opportunity to develop data sharing agreements to conduct education research with other organizations such as APPD LEARN. The ABP is interested in advancing assessment of entrustable professional activities (EPAs), competencies and milestones, making it important for us to compare performance using such data as in-training scores, with milestone performance levels in relevant competencies.

We plan to make our intentions transparent to those taking the ABP's examinations. Beginning in 2018, examinees will be asked to voluntarily consent for the use of de-identified test scores in education research studies at the time of their in-training and certification examinations. We will not use the data of those who opt-out during the electronic consent.

We wanted to make program leadership aware of this new consent process and assure you that the privacy program in place at the ABP is rigorous and updated on an ongoing basis as new technologic and other data protections emerge. Detailed information will be included in next year's proctor's guide for the ITE.

ABP Program Portal: Program Director and Program Coordinator Access and Privileges

The Program Portal allows program directors and program coordinators to 1) update program contact information, 2) order General Pediatrics ITE exams, and/or 3) view reports of trainee results on in-training exams and certifying exams. Program directors have rights to perform all tasks, but the single program coordinator as identified in ABP's records may be granted rights to any single or combination of the three functionalities. To ensure confidentiality for trainees, ABP asks that you not share program director credentials as a means for coordinators or others to perform functions on the portal, but that you log on the portal to assign the coordinator the privileges associated with those functionalities you wish the coordinator to perform. Program Coordinators will receive an email when rights have been granted and they'll be directed to log in to activate their accounts.

If a single coordinator serves multiple training areas/programs, such as both general pediatrics and combined pediatrics and other specialty training, or multiple subspecialty areas, the program director for each training area should indicate rights for the program coordinator. More information may be found in the [FAQ/Help section](#) on the ABP portal, or contact us. Also note that many Residency Tracking forms may now be found in the portal.

Another note about confidentiality and security:

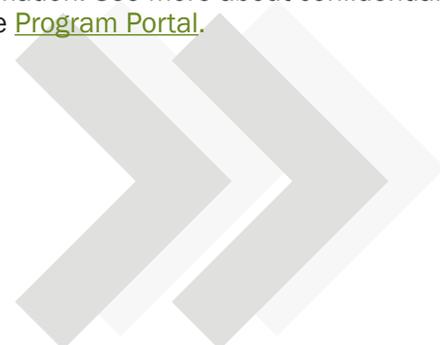
Remember that the ABP may send confidential emails to program directors regarding trainees. We ask that in the portal, the Program Director's email address, not a general email address, be provided.

Questions about signing onto the portal, or how coordinators may gain access to the portal may be directed to scushman@abped.org.

Single Sign On to ABP Portfolio and ABP Program Portal

Recently, ABP streamlined access to the portfolio and program portal applications by creating a "single sign on." Once diplomates who are also program directors log into the ABP website, there is no further need to input credentials for the Program Portal, or vice versa. Implementing single sign on reduces the burden for program directors to provide credentials multiple times, while continuing to keep the portfolio and program portal sites secure.

Be aware that if the user name and password credentials for the single sign on are shared with others, those individuals also have access to personal information on the portfolio, such as MOC activity, scores on exams and other confidential information. See more about confidentiality in the [Program Portal](#).



Accelerated Research Pathway Allergy and Immunology (ARP-Allergy-Immunology)

The Accelerated Research Pathway (ARP) now includes a pathway for those who are interested in completing Allergy and Immunology training. ARP is designed to provide flexibility in training to accommodate individual career goals, especially for residents who plan a career in academics as a physician scientist. The pathway requires 2 years of general pediatrics training with specific educational units in general pediatrics and 4 years of training in a pediatric subspecialty fellowship in a discipline in which the ABP requires Scholarly Activity.

[ARP Allergy-Immunology](#) is intended for individuals who wish to become certified in Allergy-Immunology and who desire additional time in research. Both the general pediatrics and allergy-immunology program director must submit a petition outlining two years of general pediatrics training that meet the specific requirements, and four years of allergy-immunology to the ABP and the American Board of Allergy-Immunology (ABAI) by May of the PL-1 year. The Boards will approve individuals and not training programs.

Subspecialty Program Directors: Review the Criteria for Certification in your Subspecialty Area

As a program director, you need to understand what requirements your fellows must meet to apply for certification. First, review the [General Criteria for Certification in the Pediatric Subspecialties](#) to familiarize yourself with core requirements that apply to most subspecialties, and includes information about special pathways and scholarly activity. Next, review the specifics for the subspecialty.

Updated Professionalism Resource for Program Directors: Teaching, Promoting and Assessing Professionalism Across the Continuum: A Medical Educator's Guide

This guide, originally created in 2008 was recently revised by the ABP's Education and Training Committee in association with APPD. It has been endorsed by CoPS and COMSEP. It includes searchable competencies and adaptable content that can be used in a variety of educational sessions. The [guide](#) provides suggested methods for teaching and assessing professionalism for trainees.

Core Knowledge in Scholarly Activities

The content outlines for all of the ABP's pediatric subspecialties share a common domain called "Core Knowledge in Scholarly Activities." This means that all of the ABP's subspecialty exams contain a relatively small percentage of questions (5-7% for in-training and initial certification exams, 2-5% for maintenance of certification exams) covering core scholarly activity topics such as principles of clinical research design, principles of biostatistics, and ethics in research. In 2017, a small task force of practicing subspecialists updated the Core Knowledge in Scholarly Activities domain to help ensure its continued relevance to practice. The updated domain content was subsequently vetted and approved by each of the ABP's pediatric subspecialty boards. The most notable change to the new Core Knowledge in Scholarly Activities domain is the inclusion of a new subdomain that focuses on Quality Improvement. Beginning in January 2018, all of the ABP's subspecialty exams will include questions that align with the updated domain. More detailed information regarding the specific topics (i.e., subdomains) included in the Core Knowledge in Scholarly domain can be found [here](#).

New Subspecialty: Pediatric Hospital Medicine

The [Eligibility Criteria](#) for this new subspecialty are now posted. The first exam will be offered in the fall 2019. Find the requirements for certification [here](#). You may also browse a list of frequently asked questions during the temporary period of eligibility, which includes both a practice and non-accredited training pathway available during the first three exam cycles (2019, 2021, 2023).

